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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims: Please amend the claims according to the status designations in the following list, which contains all claims that were ever in the application, with the text of all active claims.

Claim 1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A Dutch Oven stand, comprising:

a base assembly having a non-perforated sides and a non-perforated bottom surfaces defining an upwardly open, uncovered and unobstructed receptacle for supporting a Dutch Oven directly on said bottom surface and for holding and for containing solid cooking fuel on said bottom surface, in order to reduce the chance of unwanted fire while cooking in a Dutch Oven; and

a plurality of non adjustable foldable legs of predetermined fixed length rotatably coupled to said base assembly wherein said legs can be extended folded out to support said base assembly, or such legs can be folded into a substantially compact configuration with said base assembly to facilitate transportation of said base assembly.

Claim 2. (ORIGINAL) The Dutch Oven Stand according to claim 1, wherein said foldable legs are not longer in any dimension than the longest dimension of said base assembly, in order to facilitate the folding of such legs into a flush configuration with said base assembly, and wherein such legs when in a folded position do not protrude in any direction which materially increases the overall dimensions of said base assembly.

Claim 3. (CANCELLED)

Claim 4. (CANCELLED)

Claim 5. (CANCELLED)

Claim 6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A Dutch Oven stand according to claim 1 further including a heat resistant leveling means for leveling said base assembly at high temperatures, wherein said leveling means comprises a longitudinal and a lateral axis-level indicators affixed to said base assembly, channel formed from the same material as said base assembly and each of which is affixed to said sides of said base assembly; and

said channels each respectively have a heat resistant ball bearing of a smaller dimension than said channels, said bearings loosely disposed within each of said longitudinal and lateral channels; and

wherein said bearings are visible within the channels,
axis-level indicators affixed to of said base assembly.

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Claim 7. (CANCELLED)

Claim 8. (CANCELLED)

Claim 9. (CANCELLED)

Claim 10. (CANCELLED)

Claim 11. (NEW) An apparatus, comprising:

a base assembly having non-perforated sides and a non-perforated bottom surface defining an upwardly open, uncovered and unobstructed receptacle for supporting a Dutch Oven directly on said bottom surface and for holding and for containing solid cooking fuel on said bottom surface in order to reduce the chance of unwanted fire while cooking in a Dutch Oven; and

a plurality of non adjustable legs of predetermined fixed length rotatably coupled to said base assembly wherein said legs can be folded out to support said base assembly, or such legs can be folded into a substantially compact configuration with said base assembly to facilitate transportation of said base assembly; and

a heat resistant leveling means for leveling said base assembly, wherein said leveling means comprises a longitudinal and a lateral channel formed from the same material as said base assembly and each of which is affixed to said sides of said base assembly; and

said channels each respectively have a heat resistant ball bearing of a smaller dimension than said channels, said bearings loosely disposed within each of said longitudinal and lateral channels; and

wherein said bearings are visible within the channels.

Claim 12. (NEW) A method for cooking with a Dutch Oven stand which reduces the risk of unwanted fire comprising the steps of:

providing a Dutch Oven stand means having an upwardly open, uncovered and unobstructed receptacle defined by solid, non-perforated sides and a solid, non-perforated base; and said base has a plurality of foldable legs of predetermined fixed length rotatably coupled to said base;

folding out said legs;

placing said stand onto a solid surface;

putting solid cooking fuel into said receptacle;

placing a Dutch Oven onto said base.